

History of Fraternity and Sorority Life at West Chester University

On September 27, 1967, The Board of Trustees approved the recommendations of the Intracollegiate Governmental Association (SGA) and Student Affairs Division to adopt the policy to permit the organization of social fraternities and sororities on the West Chester State College campus. The very same semester, six fraternities began seeking members: Lambda Chi Alpha, Sigma Tau Gamma, Zeta Beta Tau, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Theta Chi and Pi Lambda Phi.

Two National Sororities began: *Delta Zeta* (January 11, 1969), and *Sigma Delta Tau* (April 25, 1969). Concurrently, many local sororities that already existed took steps to associate with Inter/National Sororities. Kappa Theta became *Alpha Omicron Pi* (March 1968), *Delta Sigma Tau* became *Alpha Sigma Alpha* (November 15, 1969), *Sigma Kappa Rho* became *Alpha Sigma Tau* (November 4, 1969), *Sigma Chi Omega* became *Zeta Tau Alpha* (April 11, 1970), *Delta Psi Omega* became *Alpha Xi Delta* (December 6, 1970), and *Alpha Phi Sigma* became *Alpha Phi* (April 17, 1971). Local sororities that decided not to affiliate would eventually not be able to sustain membership: *Delta Phi Iota*, *Eta Iota Rho*, *Lambda Delta Chi*, and *Phi Sigma Rho*.

On December 19, 1969, *Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.* became the first National Pan-Hellenic Council member organization established at WCU. West Chester holds the distinction of a few predominantly white colleges and universities to establish a historically African American fraternity at the same time as other chapters. A strong presence of NPHC fraternities and sororities has sustained throughout the years, beginning with the establishment of *Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.* (December 8, 1973).

In the early part of the 1970's, the fraternity and sorority community would undergo a time of building, hiring a full time Greek Life Professional and creating their governing councils. Fraternities and sororities that could not sustain membership had to ultimately close during the first half of the decade (*Zeta Beta Tau*, *Sigma Tau Gamma*, *Pi Lambda Phi*, *Sigma Delta Tau*, *Alpha Omicron Pi*, *Alpha Sigma Alpha*). And, as *Sigma Phi Epsilon* established on December 1, 1979, *Lambda Chi Alpha* closed shortly after in 1980.

In the early 1980's, the NPHC community welcomed *Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.* (March 25, 1977), *Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.* (Established April 14, 1980), *Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.* (October 20, 1981), and *Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.* (1983). And the Interfraternity Council community added *Alpha Chi Rho* (October 29, 1983), *Sigma Pi* (February 4, 1984).

The latter part of the 1980's brought about another boom in expansion of new chapters for the Interfraternity Council: *Phi Kappa Sigma* (May 1, 1987), *Phi Delta Theta* (January 16, 1988), *Pi Kappa Phi* (January 28, 1989), *Kappa Delta Rho* (December 8, 1989). NPHC added the two more of the Divine Nine: *Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.* (May 7, 1989) and *Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.* (April 13, 1991). The Panhellenic Council would add the first new organizations since establishing ten years earlier with *Delta Phi Epsilon* (April 16, 1989) and *Phi Sigma Sigma* (December 9, 1990).

The 1990's were a period of stabilization for the community. In addition to *Delta Chi* joining the Interfraternity Council, (April 27, 1996), WCU joined many other Universities in the northeast region of the country to see an influx of culturally based fraternities and sororities. The first historically Latin organizations were established: *Lambda Theta Phi Fraternity* (February 1, 1993) and *Lambda Theta Alpha Sorority* (April 10, 1994).

At the turn of the 21st century, Panhellenic welcomed *Phi Mu* (April 15, 2000), and the newly formed "Black and Latino Greek Council" recognized its second Latin sorority, *Chi Upsilon Sigma* (December 2, 2001).

The Interfraternity Council also added more chapters with Beta Theta Pi (February 2, 2002) and *Sigma Alpha Epsilon* (April 4, 2004). *Lambda Alpha Upsilon* Latin Fraternity was established on April 21, 2007. The newest Interfraternity Council chapter to join the community was *Delta Chi* on November 6, 2010. *Mu Sigma Upsilon* became the first multicultural sorority to join the community, founded on April 13, 2008. On September 27, 2012, BLGC welcomed the colonies of *Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority, Inc.* and *Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity, Inc.*

In the fall of 2013, Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity and Alpha Delta Pi Sorority will be the first chapters to colonize as part of the intentional growth plans of the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council. WCU will then host 26 inter/national fraternities and sororities, with more than 1000 active members and a combined membership of 6,000 alumni. While the names of the chapters look a little different throughout the years, the fraternity and sorority community has seen a steady and healthy increase.